

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 26th March 1904.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Hitaradi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March writes:—

The Tibet Mission.

It is quite evident from the Tibetan Blue-Book that Government is determined to curtail the independence of Tibet by force. Everybody knows that the strong are never in want of an excuse when bent upon repressing the weak. The correctness of this popular belief becomes evident to us when we seek to find out the cause that led to the despatch of troops into Tibet. Lord Curzon, while on the heights of Simla, became suddenly terror-stricken at the terrible apparition of the great Russian Bear, and imagined that the Indian Empire was about to be snatched out of the jaws of the British Lion. So self-defence, it would appear, was imperative, and this supplied a pretext for the Tibet expedition.

His Excellency alone knows whether he was really disconcerted by the hideous spectre of the Russian Bear, or was only carried away by the bewitching prospect of earning the much-coveted title of "Earl of Lhasa" as a reward for extending the boundaries of the British Empire. But the manner in which he attempted to make baseless rumours and false and exaggerated incidents appear as real truth, and thereby to convince the authorities in England of the necessity of sending the expedition, shows too much forwardness on the part of His Excellency.

Can the British Raj brook the total aloofness of the Tibetans? Is it not criminal on their part, uncivilized orientals as they are, to dislike the free passage of civilized Englishmen into their country? Does it stand to reason that instead of regarding himself as an object of pity to Englishmen, without trembling with fear at their angry look, and without rejoicing on receiving their favour, they should go on peacefully governing their own country? Consequently they fell under the influence of the malignant stars; and although they had decided to remain at a safe distance, civilized Englishmen went forward to embrace them.

The fact, however, is that most men believe that Lord Curzon has imitated the Russian policy in this matter. While outwardly professing peaceful motives, His Excellency has been making all possible preparations for war. But where is the money to come from? Why, it must be paid by those who have always paid it. It is the poor people of India who must pay the cost of the Tibetan war just as they have paid the cost of the Afghan war and the Burmese war. May we respectfully ask His Excellency—O Lord! is this your Political Mission?

HITAVADI,
March 11th, 1904.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 15th March draws attention

Thefts at Raniganj in the Burdwan district.

to the constant thefts taking place at Raniganj in the district of Burdwan. The thieves set about their business even before nightfall. A corre-

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 15th, 1904.

spondent states that the police are quite unable to check them.

3. The same paper complains against the policemen stationed at the

Complaint against the police of an outpost in the Burdwan district.

Keshabganj outpost in the Burdwan district. This outpost is situated on the Grand Trunk Road, and the police molest the drivers of carts which use this road.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI

4. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th March complains that

Thefts at Bankura.

numerous thefts are occurring at Bankura town, but the police are powerless. The Subordinate Judge

BANKURA DARPAN,
March 16th, 1904.

and the First Munsif are among the sufferers. The opening of the railway has brought in many people of all characters, and the police ought to keep an eye on them. But, unfortunately, the police arrangements are conspicuous only by their absence. The chaukidars do duty from 11 to 3 in the night. There is nobody on guard during the rest of the 24 hours. The old arrangement whereby chaukidars did duty in the day-time also, in different parts of the town, should be restored.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
March 16th, 1904.

5. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 16th March says:—

The Corbett case.

We informed our readers previously that on the occasion of the *Dol jatra* at Comilla, a European came and interfered with the music which was going on in a particular house. Some papers gave the name of Mr. Corbett, the local head of the police, as the offender. The Private Secretary to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has written to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* stating that Mr. Corbett was not the person who acted in this way. We would have been very glad if the Private Secretary had informed us as to who was guilty of such interference, even if Mr. Corbett was not, and whether such a thing was done at all.

**SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,**
March 16th, 1904.

6. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] refers to

The Corbett case.

a letter addressed by the Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor to the Editor, *Amrita Bazar*

Patrika, in which certain allegations made against Mr. Corbett by a correspondent of that paper are contradicted and says that it cannot but thank Sir Andrew Fraser for such careful perusal of native papers, although it is a matter of regret that no notice is taken by Government of real and grievous oppressions to which its attention is earnestly drawn by the public. From a repeated perusal of the letter the writer finds that Government does not deny the occurrence, but only contends that the guilty party in this case is not Mr. Corbett, but somebody else. If Government had therefore kindly mentioned the name of the guilty party, as well as the punishment which has been inflicted upon him, everybody would have seen that Mr. Corbett is innocent, and at the same time thanked Government for the justice done by it. But the present letter can produce only one impression, namely, that Government has suppressed the matter.

HITAVADI,
March 18th, 1904.

7. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th March says:—

The Tippera incident—a retraction.

The hero whose achievement was celebrated in the article headed "Doings of Corbett," published in our last issue was not Mr. Corbett but some other gentleman. We are sorry to have connected Mr. Corbett's name with the article. Our informant was a pleader of position, and we had no reason to disbelieve him. The truth is that he was himself mistaken, and that led to our mistake. There is little wonder in a native of this country mistaking one European for another. But at all events, it is highly regrettable to make one man liable for the faults of another.

JYOTI,
March 17th, 1904.

8. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 17th March states, on the authority of a

Fire at Noakhali.

local correspondent, that a fire broke out at Noakhali on the 7th March at 8 P.M. The record-rooms of Babus Rames Chandra Das and Sasi Bhusan Sen, Deputy Magistrates, the Settlement Office, the Police Barracks, with all the papers stored in them, were all burned down.

The authorities should engage a special detective to find out (1) where and when the fire first broke out, and when and how the fire attacked the Settlement Office which had pucca walls and a tin roof, (2) whether any papers were taken out of the Settlement Office just before or after the fire occurred, and whether any the least effort was made to check the fire and save the records.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 18th, 1904.

9. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th March complains against the Daroga of Pursura thana in the district of Hooghly. Frequent thefts are occurring in the vicinity of that thana. This is not to the credit of the police officer concerned.

NIHAR,
March 22nd, 1904.

10. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 22nd March contains the following from some Entrance examinees appearing from the High English School at Contai:—

On the afternoon of the 12th March last we engaged a bullock-cart to take us back from Midnapore. The Second Daroga of the Contai thana sent to us to take back the earnest-money we had given to the cartman, as he wished to engage the cart for himself. As we refused to submit, the Daroga Babu appeared in person to remonstrate.

The following are samples of the colloquy which ensued. "You don't know I am a police officer and one, too, who is supposed to be educated. We do not know the distinction between right and wrong; we are scoundrels; we must be

so; why else should we be in the police? If the cartman accompanies me of his own free will, you cannot by any earthly power prevent him."

It would not have been difficult for the Daroga to engage another cart. We did not expect such ill-befitting conduct from an educated man. What will the lower ranks of the police do, if an educated man like him acts thus? We beg to draw the attention of the authorities to this.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

11. The *Pallirasi* [Kalna] of the 16th March, in an article headed "Oppression in the law-courts," says:—

PALLIRASI,
March 16th, 1904.

Oppression in the law-courts. One is alarmed to think of the miscarriages of justice which occur nowadays in India. The loyal people of India are being persecuted owing either to ignorance or love of oppression on the part of the Judges. Will not the Government enquire?

How many Judges in criminal cases keep in view the principle of dealing out "substantial justice"? In Civil cases, the Judges are bent more on clearing their files than on dispensing justice? There is no end to the oppression and injury this gives rise to. But we do not see that Government takes it much to heart.

Nowadays failure of justice results in many cases from the want of good Judges. There are not a few Judges without knowledge of law, who cannot even understand law if it is explained to them. When Judges are ignorant and inefficient, a speedy and at the same time just disposal of cases is impossible. Consequently their files cannot be cleared speedily. Will Government try to understand this?

At the present day, the first thing some Judges do, on taking their seats, is to try and see which cases may be dismissed, and which tried *ex-parte*. The Judge who is paid to try cases thus turns his attention to finding flaws and getting rid of them. Nothing can be more oppressive. But the lower Courts alone are not to blame for this; they act on the hints of the authorities. Does Government pay for the upkeep of a number of executioners in the garb of judges only to prevent cases from being tried?

We do not deny that the Courts are overburdened with work, but their income also is large. Last year the Bengal Government made a profit of 55 lakhs from the law-courts. Why sell justice in this way at a profit? Politicians do not deny that this is impolitic. The number of Judges may be easily increased. Why does not Government do that? Is it not the duty of Government to redress the grievances of its subjects when it can easily do that?

The number of Judges should certainly be increased, but that does not mean that every worthless nobody should be allowed to pollute the pure fountain of justice.

Considering the numerous miscarriages of justice now occurring, some speedy inquiry is necessary. It has become absolutely necessary to inquire why justice is delayed, why cases are dismissed or decided *ex parte*, or compromised or withdrawn. Is it not necessary to have a Commission to inquire into these points and suggest means of redress? Lord Curzon has appointed many Commissions on many subjects. Will he not appoint a Commission on this subject also?

Our impression is, so much oppression would not result if the men entrusted with the work of trial were fit for their duties. The want of good Judges in the Appellate Courts has made it impossible to correct the decisions of the lower Courts. Much mischief is being done because of the want of men possessing experience, learning, judicial acumen, kindness, and generosity. It is by no means expedient to appoint unfit men to be Judges. There is no doubt that if care was exercised in appointing Judges, many failures of justice would be prevented.

Now that the Civil Procedure Code is being amended, it is time to make arrangements for the proper administration of justice. We hope Lord Curzon, by making such arrangements, will leave an imperishable name behind him in India.

12. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 16th March draws attention to the hardship and loss to poor defendants in Small Cause Court suits by not being permitted to file motions in District Judges' Courts against the decrees passed by the Munsifs.

KASIPUR-NIVASI,
March 16th, 1904.

Small Cause Court decrees. Unscrupulous litigants take advantage of poor persons who are unable to

move the High Court. It is to be hoped Government will take notice of this matter.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 18th, 1904.

13. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th March complains as follows against Babu Dakshina Charan Sen, Extra Assistant Commissioner of Hibiganj.

Complaint against Babu Dakshina Charan Sen, Extra Assistant Commissioner of Hibiganj.

(1) On the 29th January last, in the case of Sanatan Nath, plaintiff, *versus* Abbas, defendant (under section 498, Indian Penal Code), a woman named Kailas Jugini was a witness. After her evidence had been taken, the woman was asked to give a security for her re-appearance on the date of the next hearing of the case. She had agreed to produce her security, but Dakshina Babu, against her consent, ordered her to remain in the custody of the plaintiff. As the woman refused to accompany the plaintiff, Dakshina Babu ordered the latter to take charge of her by any means in his power. The result was that the woman was dragged forcibly through the streets with her clothes disordered. Mr. Majid, the Subdivisional Officer, fortunately saw her in passing, and he induced the plaintiff to let her go.

When she re-appeared in Court later, Dakshina Babu was so much enraged at his order not having been carried out in full that he threw the unoffending woman into prison, and thereby set a supreme example of his power and knowledge of law. The case of a woman thus rotting in jail, who came as a witness, and who gave proper security, is an example of high-handedness that ought to be immediately checked.

(2) Since he has begun to be exposed in the *Hitavadi*, he has been making efforts to find out the man who supplies that paper with information, but has failed.

He has come to suspect all vakils and mukhtears, and vents his spleen on them whenever they come to Court on business.

(3) Dakshina Babu has a large number of friends and relations living in Hibiganj. Anybody who happens to bring a case against any one of them is unduly harassed. No summonses are issued against these men, even if they are accused of serious crimes. On the other hand, educated and respectable people are dragged into Court on a charge of trespass. This may be proved from the Court records.

(4) The Hibiganj Trading Company was started at the instance of Dakshina Babu. Many people took up shares under his persuasion. This also is culculated to give rise to differences between Dakshina Babu and the men of his subdivision. It is not right under such circumstances to keep him in charge of the subdivision.

(5) The rule is that no Government official can leave his station without previous sanction. But Dakshina Babu during the late Christmas holidays visited his house, which is in another district. Will the authorities enquire? Does not all this show his high-handedness and want of a sense of responsibility?

RANGPUR
VARTAVAHA,
March 18th, 1904.

14. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 18th March complains that it is very difficult to get books registered at the local Registration Office. The Registrar does not accept books for registration unless the printer personally presents the same to him. Supposing the printer is unable to present himself within a month owing to illness, will the registration of books be delayed for that time in consequence?

15. A correspondent of the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 19th March writes as follows from Ichapur, Raniganj:—

High-handedness of a collector-ate peon.

A peon of the Raniganj Collectorate went to that village on the 5th March last to realise the road-cess from Babu Bihari Lal Bakshi. In Bihari Babu's absence, the peon entered his house, kicked away the plate off which a lady was dining, and seized all the utensils he could lay his hands on. He also abused Bihari Babu's wife. The Subdivisional Officer of Raniganj is asked to interfere.

(d)—Education.

SANJIVANI,
March 17th, 1904.

16. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th March writes that the only object of the recent Resolution of the Government of India on education seems to be to do away with the freedom of all sorts of education in India and

The Government of India's Resolution on education.

to bring all the educational institutions under the control of Government. By the Universities Act all the colleges will be brought under Government control and, thanks to the Resolution, the independence which the high schools possessed will now be taken away. Those boys who will pass the "School Final" examination will be thought eligible for Government employment; but those who will pass the Entrance Examination will not be so considered, but will merely have the privilege of entering the University. The result of this arrangement will be that very few students will appear at the Entrance Examination, and therefore very few persons will receive higher education. The people who are deprived of higher education can expect no improvement in this world. Lord Curzon leaves behind an effective machinery which will prevent the people from acquiring manhood. But the British Government can never support this ungenerous policy, and a day will surely dawn when all Lord Curzon's delusive plans will stand exposed.

17. The *Mahima* [Calcutta] of the 18th March criticises the recent Resolution on education in India as follows:—

Government Resolution on education in India.

Henceforth students are to be examined in their own schools, under the supervision of the Inspectors. Every one must admit that this change will do more good than harm. The young boys and girls will be spared the discomforts of travelling to a distant centre of examination. But the restricted number of competitors will perhaps interfere with the interest the boys take in the contest. Still, on the whole, the good preponderates over the evil in this change.

Again, grants-in-aid to primary schools will no longer be determined by the results of examinations. Henceforth, the state of the school funds, the qualifications of the teachers, the quality of the instruction given, and the state of the school building will be the determining factors. This rule is sure to defeat its purpose. Henceforward Inspectors will be all-in-all.

If these new grant-in-aid rules are carried out exactly in the spirit intended by Government, nothing but good will result from them. But we very much doubt if in all cases the proper spirit will be found to prevail among the Inspectors and Deputy Inspectors, not every one of whom is a *Judhistir* (an incarnation of Duty). Government will have to depend on the reports of these officers. If swayed by a desire to show favour, or some other consideration, they recommend a larger grant for an underserving school or a smaller grant for a deserving school, the recommendation will most likely be acted on. This is an instance where the new rules will produce mischief.

To see that these new grant-in-aid regulations are not abused, the Government trusts to mere rules and procedure. We for our part cannot see how any rules can possibly prevent bias on the part of the officers concerned in recommending the grants. As far as we can see, henceforth schools will be entirely at the mercy of the officers of the Education Department in the matter of receiving grants. It will probably lead to misuse of power.

The Government of India admits that primary education has not hitherto received an adequate share of the public funds, but throws the blame on the Provincial Governments. This is unjust. For the Provincial Governments cannot spend money on their own initiative. They cannot spend a farthing more than the sanctioned grant of the Imperial Government. The Indian Government is always making demands on the Provincial Governments. Hence these Provincial Governments dare not make proposals for increased expenditure.

Even at present the Municipal and District Boards have been bearing the major portion of the expenses of primary instruction. But this is not enough. The Government calls upon them to pay more. The Education Department is to report to Government for action cases in which it thinks the money spent by the local authorities on education is not sufficient.

The reader will observe how the astute Lord Curzon lays the axe at the root of self-government. Government will not consent to spend a farthing for the advancement of primary education. All the responsibility is cast upon the Municipal and District Boards. They are even to be deprived of the power of spending their own money at their own discretion. Henceforth as regards expenditure on education, they will have to be guided by the Education Department. Woe to them, if the authorities of that department are displeased. The

MAHIMA,
March 18th, 1904.

Provincial Government will at once hurl its thunderbolts on the doomed Board. We are being charmed with the infinite goodness of the Curzonian administration. We are half-dead with harassment. His hapless subjects will breathe freely if only his Excellency now goes home.

BASUMATI,
March 19th, 1904.

18. Lord Curzon's favourite Secretary, Mr. Risley, says the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 19th March, gave proof of his learning and his knowledge of the caste system in his letter on the partition question. He has now given a conclusive proof of the depth of his learning in the Resolution on Education.

We will neither attempt here a *resumé* of the Resolution nor enter upon a discussion with Mr. Risley about its contents. Lord Curzon is not a man whose resolution can be shaken. Our protest will not succeed in undoing what His Excellency has set his heart upon accomplishing and what has a political object at bottom. In a word, no educational institution which is maintained or aided by Government will have the least independence. Even schools whose only connection with Government is that they send pupils to the public examinations and wish to enjoy the benefit of Government scholarships will have to sell their independence to Government for no price. Nay, even institutions which do not wish to keep any connection with the Government, but want only to send their pupils to the University examinations, will have to be the slaves of Government.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 19th, 1904.

19. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th March has the following on the Government Resolution on Education:—

The Government Resolution on Education.

The Government of India has in a manner admitted that the defects in the education of the Indian of to-day, after his English education of half-a-century, are the same as they were before the introduction of English education in the country. As in the past, so in the present the Indian cultivates only his memory. What benefit has, then, English education conferred on the country? The truth is that while it has conferred no benefit, worth the name, it has, on the contrary, deprived it of eminent Sanskrit Professors like those who were produced under the old system. Can it be said, again, that the present system, if it has done nothing else, has helped to spread education among the masses? No, for Government itself admits that every three boys in four are still all but illiterate. As a matter of fact, English education has done us no good but has, on the contrary, done us immense harm. The writer has all along said that an education, which is not based on religion, and whose sole object is the pursuit of wealth and luxury, can produce no better result than the one which Government has now occasion to condemn. So much for the past. It should now be seen what will be the probable result of the educational policy which Government intends to follow in the future.

Everybody will admit with the Government the evil effect which is produced on education if examinations are allowed to exercise a dominating influence on it. But the remedy at which the Government of India has hinted is not calculated to improve the system of education, so far at least as lower education is concerned. Government wants to abolish all public examinations. Only one examination will be held at the end of the primary course, and that examination will be held by the inspecting officer in the school itself, and he will be at liberty to pass or not anybody he likes. This will put too much power in the hands of inspecting officers, a great many of whom will be likely to misuse it for the sake of their own gain. Besides, such a lax system of examination will naturally react upon the system of education itself, and neither teacher nor pupil will take any interest in his work, especially as the Government grant will no longer depend upon even such examination as may be held. A better course would be not to abolish examinations altogether, but to reduce their number and make certain changes in the methods of selecting text-books and holding examinations.

It certainly bespeaks great generosity on the part of the Government to admit that it has hitherto neglected primary education and to resolve to spend more money on such education in future. But has Government ever taken the trouble to investigate the causes that hamper the spread of primary education among the masses of this country? The writer believes that it is the poverty of the masses in this country which prevents them from sending their boys to

school. The cultivator's son has to help his father in his daily work from the age of five or six. Where shall he then find time to attend his school? In cases, again, in which cultivators send their boys to school, their object in doing so is to have such education imparted to their boys as will enable them on the completion of their school course to secure well-paid service like that which boys of the better classes secure after their school career is over, but not an education which will make them better cultivators. It is also impossible for a poor cultivator's son to remain at school beyond his twelfth or thirteenth year. So, the little time he spends at school does him no good. At its end he is neither an educated man nor a good cultivator and is of no use to his poor father. The truth is that the attempt to educate the masses in Bengal, at least, has always proved a failure, and education when imparted to such classes of the population has done more harm than good to its recipients. If, however, Government be intent upon spreading mass education, it will have to find at least ten times the money it has proposed to spend upon it. But can the people expect so much money from the Government? Unless Government can spend upon mass education as much money as the countries, after whose example it wants to introduce such education in India, do, its efforts in that direction are more likely to do harm than good to this country. It is therefore to be hoped that Government will do nothing in the matter without deliberate consideration.

20. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 20th March writes:—

The Government of India's Resolution on education.

We accord our full support to the Government of India's Resolution on education. We believe that if the proposal of Government is faithfully

carried out, it will do us good. We are opposed to the system of competitive examinations. The examination of the boys will now be conducted by the inspecting officers, and on the result of this examination will depend the future improvement of the boys. But the question is whether Government possesses a sufficient number of trustworthy officers, many of its officers being only anxious somehow to maintain themselves in their posts, so that they may manage to earn their pensions without exposing themselves to what they consider extra labour. Under the circumstances, we do not expect that inspecting officers will be able to do their work satisfactorily. The system of weekly examinations should be introduced in all schools and the results should be properly recorded, so that inspecting officers may examine these results and, by themselves examining the boys, come to a decision. Government should train teachers for the work of instruction and appoint the best among them as inspecting officers.

We have all along been in favour of the teaching of History, Geography, Science, etc., though the medium of the vernacular. But teachers are not generally proficient in their mother-tongue and are unable to add to the value of their teaching by giving familiar illustrations. Government should therefore train up teachers who are proficient in their mother-tongue.

We are for reviving the system of training which was in force in villages in the past. Much good may result if native Arithmetic, book-keeping, etc., are taught to the sons of poor villagers. The practice of making schools a source of pecuniary gain, now so prevalent, should be put a stop to.

The system of education which gives rise to a revolution in society—by means of which the sons of goldsmiths, Kaibartas, washermen and fishermen are turned into Babus—should not be encouraged.

21. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st March remarks as follows on the new rules regarding students' hostels:—

The new rules regarding students' hostels.

We do not know how far these rules will work well in practice. Our impression is that the

poorer students, if they are to submit to so many restrictions, will be shut out from the benefits of education. The authorities would have shown a spirit of sympathy if they had relaxed some of the rules in favour of such students.

22. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd March has a cartoon on the new educational policy of Government.

A cartoon.

A European wearing a hat labelled "High education" is represented as teaching the alphabet to some grown-up men who are standing in a supplicating attitude.

RANGALAYA,
March 20th, 1904.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 21st, 1904.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 23rd, 1904.

In the letter-press the people are told that primary education will be henceforward their highest education, and that they must give up all hopes of a real high education. Mere cramming oneself with books does not improve the mind. Primary and secondary instruction will both be killed with one stone.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
March 16th, 1904.

23. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 16th March says that the all-destroying malaria is increasing every day and there is no hope that

it will ever diminish. Want of food and pure water is the chief cause of the mortality from malaria, and so long as this cause is not removed there will be no abatement of that mortality. Our Government is making healthy people uneasy by taking up such large questions as University reform, constitution of new provinces, and the like, but it is doing nothing to save the lives of the people. If the people all die, how will they profit in any way by University reform? Commission after Commission has been appointed by Lord Curzon, but nothing has been done to put an end of the ravages of malaria.

MEDINI BANDHAY,
March 16th, 1904.

24. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 16th March notices the outbreak of a severe epidemic of cholera in Deul Banta, Fatehpur, Kasipur, Akbarpur, Baranga, Chandanpur and many other villages under thana Ramnagar, in the subdivision of Contai. It is hoped that Mr. Luson will send medical aid without delay.

HITAVADI,
March 18th, 1904.

25. The new municipal *régime* in Calcutta, says the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th March, has not in the least benefited the native residents of the city, but has, on the

contrary, led to the commission of merciless oppression upon them. On the plea of making new roads, land much in excess of the actual requirement is acquired with the help of the law at a very small price and the excess land is resold, after the construction of the road, at a high price. This means of making money may appear harmless in the eye of the municipal authorities, but is certainly not so in the eye of equity and justice. It would, at least, have been some consolation to the rate-payers if this ill-gotten money had been spent for their benefit and for the improvement of the city. But that is not done. While the hardships of the rate-payers are daily increasing, their money is being squandered more and more.

If anybody takes the trouble of preparing a list of the highly-paid but unnecessary posts created in the Municipality under the new *régime*, it will be seen what use is being made of the money which is realised from the rate-payers by oppression. The municipal authorities could not squander the rate-payers' money in this wanton fashion if they had the least solicitude for the rate-payers' interests. A proposal, it is said, has been recently made to appoint a military man as Chief Conservancy Officer on a salary of Rs. 1,100. One fails to see the necessity of a highly-paid military man at the head of the Conservancy Department. Apart from the question of expenditure, there are other grounds on which the appointment of a military man as a Conservancy officer is objectionable. If a Chief Conservancy Officer is appointed, he ought to be a man of a calm temperament and possessed of a knowledge of the manners, habits, etc., of the rate-payers. It is not right to entertain men with the rate-payers' money to oppress the rate-payers themselves.

HITAVADI.

26. The same paper has the following:—

The Calcutta Municipality.

It was in an evil moment that the new Municipal Act for Calcutta was passed. The corruption of municipal officers under the new law has become so great as to astonish everybody. Complaint to the municipal authorities is of no avail, and everybody has neither the time nor the means to institute prosecutions in law-courts, especially when the prosecutor has to bear his own costs, whilst the prosecuted municipal employé has his costs of defence paid from the public funds and does not lose anything personally by losing his case. The consequent unwillingness of rate-payers to seek the protection of the law makes the municipal employés look upon themselves as the final repositories of authority and forget that they are the paid servants of the rate-payers. Their sole aim, therefore, is to find ever-new means of oppressing the rate-payers.

The greatest oppression is committed in quarters inhabited by natives or *kala admis*. The streets and roads in these quarters are seldom visited by the conservancy carts, but at night a man is found standing near every house to watch if any water is wasted from the taps therein.

In the new city there is no drainage system, but the *sulm* in the realisation of rates and taxes is as great as ever. A glance at its streets and roads would hardly lead one to suppose that the residents of this part of the town have to pay the same rates and taxes as the residents in other parts. Land and buildings are also being forcibly taken from their owners at nominal prices on the plea of opening up new streets. People have not the means, in all cases, to appeal to the High Court for a redress of their grievance in this respect.

The truth is that the new city is not intended for the *kala admis*.

27. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 21st March thinks that the rebuilding of Calcutta is under the contemplation of the Government of Bengal. The proposal is very good, no doubt, if the residents of Calcutta are not subjected to new and stricter rules. The proposal, therefore, deserves careful consideration by the Government.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
March 21st, 1904.

28. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th March draws attention to the wretched state of Amalsar village in the subdivision of Magura in Jessore. The tanks have not been cleared for the last six or seven years and are overgrown with weeds. People are compelled to drink this water. Many are already dead and the others are half-dead with malaria, cholera, and other diseases. The whole village is overgrown with jungle. Formerly it was very populous. Tigers and other wild beasts make it unsafe to leave home after dusk. The other day a child, six months old, was carried off its mother's arms by a tiger. The Collector of Jessore and the Deputy Collector of Magura have both been appealed to, but in vain.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 20th, 1904.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

29. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 16th March draws attention to the gradual silting up of the Bhagirathi. Lord Curzon during his visit there held out hopes of speedy redress. A dredger was said to be coming, but it has been coming for over two years now. The little water that remains is overgrown with weeds and has become quite unfit for drinking.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
March 16th, 1904.

30. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 16th March complains as follows against the Bengal-Nagpur Railway:—
Complaint against the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. Most of the stations have no waiting-rooms for females. In the intermediate class a separate compartment for females is rarely provided. There are no arrangements for the supply of drinking-water.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
March 16th, 1904.

A correspondent of the same paper mentions how, on the 19th February last, a third-class carriage was ticketed as intermediate, and as there was no latrine in it, the female passengers were put to great inconvenience. Again, there being no second-class compartment specially reserved for females, many ladies had to travel along with males in this improvised intermediate class carriage.

A second instance of such hardship is mentioned by the same correspondent. On the 26th February last, a vakil and his wife and child were passengers by the early morning train which leaves Howrah at 5 A.M. The lady held an intermediate class ticket, but was put into a third-class compartment (without any latrine in it) which was labelled as "Intermediate. Reserved for ladies." After the train had passed Bauria station, male passengers attempted to enter this compartment, and the vakil had to stand guard at every station to keep them away. This was not all. The train arrived at Khargpur at 9 A.M. and waited till 11 A.M., when the train from Sini and Puri arrived. The vakil had now to seek the assistance of a railway officer to prevent a fresh inrush of male passengers into his wife's compartment. The question now is—(1) Is not the Railway Company aware of the injustice of

shutting ladies up in a compartment unprovided with latrines all the time from early morning till past midday? (2) As the train has to halt at Khargpur for over an hour and a half, why is it not timed to leave Howrah at 6-30 instead of at 5? (3) Why are not intermediate class compartments provided for ladies?

We are as sheep, and the authorities know that with all our loud outcries, they will not suffer in the least. Are we men? If we were, should we be harassed in this manner?

PALLIVASI,
March 16th, 1904.

31. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 16th March commends to the notice of the authorities concerned a letter from a correspondent complaining of the want of lights in the north portion of the Asansol railway station. It is the junction station with the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, and Puri pilgrims have to change here. These passengers in going to the water-closets have to walk through complete darkness.

MAHIMA,
March 18th, 1904.

32. The *Mahima* [Calcutta] of the 18th March approves of the provision of separate waiting-rooms for Europeans and Indians at Bandel station, but it blames the Railway Company for providing the native waiting-room with inferior furniture.

RATNAKAR,
March 19th, 1904.

33. A correspondent of the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 19th March makes the following complaints against the management of the new Bankura-Midnapore section of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway:—

(1) The early hour (5 in the morning) at which the train leaves Calcutta is inconvenient. It ought to be timed to start later. The present speed after leaving Khargpur is very slow; it might be increased; and the present stoppages at petty stations made shorter.

(2) No tickets for Rijar Doba being available, the correspondent had to purchase tickets for Kishunpur, the next station. He alighted at Rijar Doba, but has not yet got a refund of the excess charged. Again, though he and his companions held intermediate class tickets, there was no intermediate class compartment provided in the train, and he had perforce to travel third class.

(h)—General.

CHARU MIHIR,
March 8th, 1904.

34. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 8th March contains suggestions from a correspondent as to the proper site for the sadar station of the new district proposed to be formed out of Mymensingh. The following two places are suggested in this connection:—

(1) The place between Bheugula and Kabaribari, on the Jhinai. The ground is high and healthy, the river-water is drinkable all the year round, the Jumna is only four miles to the west, and the steamer and railway station five or six miles away. The Pingla Munsifi chowki was formerly located here. Its position is also central.

(2) A place three or four miles to the south of the above, situated between Jamtail, Majidpur, and Jhavail on the same Jhinai. This site possesses all the advantages of the first.

PALLIVASI,
March 16th, 1904.

35. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 16th March says:—

Proposed transfer of the Raniganj subdivision to the new Asansol district.

A rumour is gaining ground that Raniganj will be annexed to the coal district of Asansol. No thoughtful man will approve of this change. The tie of historic association is with Burdwan. And under Asansol the Raniganj people will have to dance to the tune called for by the European Managers of the coal mines. Already the ascendancy of the East Indian Railway authorities has made it difficult for poorer people to live at Asansol. If Asansol is made a separate district, it will become much like an English colony. The native residents are harassed even now.

Perhaps some Europeans like Mr. Martin will go about armed with pistols for self-defence; and perhaps these pistols will on occasions get accidentally or purposely discharged, and kill some poor natives.

36. Referring to the proposed abolition of the Sealdah subdivision, and the transfer of Baranagore thana to the new Barrackpur subdivision, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd March points out the disadvantages of the new arrangement, as it would affect the inhabitants of Baranagore.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 23rd, 1904.

Calcutta is the place of business with most of these people. Communication between the two places is both easy and cheap. But to go to Barrackpur, one would have to walk three or four miles to Dum-Dum or Belgharia to catch the train; and, besides, there would be the risk of missing the train altogether.

Another point in favour of the existing arrangement is that better legal assistance (in the shape of vakils, mukhtears, securities) is available at Sealdah than at Barrackpur.

37. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th March writes:—

SANJIVANI,
March 17th, 1904.

A charge brought in connection with the passing of the Bengal Settled Estates Act.

"Max" in *Capital* has recently brought a serious charge against the Government. He says that a Maharaja, his son, and a high Government official were interested in the passing of the Bengal Settled Estates Act, and that there were stipulations of a loan of one lakh of rupees and a commission thereon at 25 per cent. Does "Max" mean that a Maharaja managed to have this law passed by granting a loan of one lakh and a commission of Rs. 25,000 to a high officer of Government for the benefit of his son? "Max" also says that a certain person gave a loan of Rs. 8,000 to a Civilian for the education of his son, and that this loan was never repaid! Reflections of this nature on the character of Government officials must bring serious disgrace upon Government. It is hoped that Sir Andrew Fraser will enquire into the truth of these grave complaints and let the public know the result.

38. The same paper writes that during his brief administration in Bengal, Sir James Bourdillon introduced the innovation of appointing a Civilian as Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta. It is now proposed to appoint Maulvi Bazlal Karim as second Presidency Magistrate in the place of Mr. Abdur Rahim, and Babu Ram Anugraha Narayan Sinha, Police Magistrate of Sealdah, as third Presidency Magistrate. These appointments will have the effect of superseding the special arrangements so long in force for the trial of police cases in Calcutta, and the Civilians will be as supreme there as they are in the mufassal. The authorities are evidently anxious to inaugurate rigorous administration all over India, and for this reason all sorts of revolutionary measures are being introduced under Lord Curzon's Government. His Excellency is going to leave behind efficient engines for crushing the backbone of the natives of this country, and yet this fawning people will in all probability vote him a statue!

SANJIVANI.

39. The same paper writes as follows under the heading "Are the Bengalis not to get Managerships even?" :—

Managerships in Court of Wards' estates.

SANJIVANI,

We want justice from Sir Andrew Fraser. His Honour himself has faith in Christ, his father is a Christian Missionary, and he has sent his son to preach the Gospel in Africa. If His Honour will not do us justice, we must then lose all hope. We beg therefore to point out the irregularities attending the appointment of Managers of Court of Wards' estates in the hope that His Honour will pursue the right course.

There are at present 32 Managers of Court of Wards' estates. Of these, there are nine Managers getting Rs. 500 and upwards per month, among whom only one is a Bengali, the rest being Europeans! Posts carrying salaries of Rs. 200 to Rs. 400 have also been appropriated by Europeans. It thus appears that Managerships and Sub-Managerships in Courts of Wards' estates are being filled up by Europeans. The highest salary of Rs. 1,800 per month is enjoyed by Mr. J. R. Lewis, the Manager of the Bettiah Estate. The Manager of the Hutwa Estate is Mr. A. Ogilvie, and his salary is from Rs. 1,250 to Rs. 1,500, the rate of annual increment being Rs. 50. He gets an additional allowance of Rs. 250 per month. The Manager of the Tikari Estate is Mr. M. M. Halliday, a descendant of Sir Frederick Halliday, a former Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. His salary

is from Rs. 700 to Rs. 1,000, the annual increment being Rs. 50. Mr. Rolt, the Manager of the Khagra Estate in the Purnea district, gets Rs. 600 per month. This gentleman was formerly the Assistant Manager of an indigo factory; he next became Manager of the Narhan Estate in the Darbhanga district, and thence he came to Khagra. Mr. T. W. Tweedie, Manager of the Dhanwar Estate in the Hazaribagh district, was appointed as Manager of the Narhan Estate in Mr. Rolt's place, and his salary of Rs. 300 at Dhanwar increased to Rs. 500 at Narhan. But even this Dhanwar Estate Managership on Rs. 300, left vacant by Mr. Tweedie, was not given to a Bengali but to a European named Mr. C. B. Clare Smith. This Mr. Clare Smith, at first the owner of a cooly depôt in a tea-garden, is now the Manager of the Punchkoot Estate on Rs. 500 per month. Lately the Tajhat Estate in the Rangpur district of the late Maharaja Govinda Lal Ray was brought under the Court of Wards. But although there were two such able and experienced candidates for this post as Babu Kali Narayan Ray and Mr. S. N. Datta, yet it was given to one Mr. Pope, an old indigo-planter of Purnea, the salary of the post being Rs. 500 per month! His only qualification was that, besides being a European, he officiated as Manager of the Khagra Estate for six months during the absence on leave of Mr. Rolt. It is strange that no qualified native gentleman was appointed to officiate in the place of Mr. Rolt. Messrs. R. P. Davies and N. F. C. Laurie are Sub-Managers in the Bettia Estate on salaries of Rs. 550 and Rs. 300, respectively. But men like Mr. S. N. Datta, who qualified himself in England in the Agricultural College, and Babu Sri Nath Chatterji, B.A., Manager of the Sathkhira Estate in the Khulna district on a salary of Rs. 200, are not given Managerships or Sub-Managerships on high pay.

From the foregoing it appears that the tendency is to deprive the Bengalis even of those smaller appointments which they now hold in Court of Wards' estates. Seeing that even clerkships on Rs. 50 are now given to the "Imperial Anglo-Indians," we do not know what hope remains for the Bengalis. Will His Honour consider whether it is justice to appoint Europeans to posts which ought to be given to Bengalis, in utter disregard of all considerations of eligibility?

RANGPUR
VARTAVAHA.
March 18th, 1904.

40. Referring to the proposed arrangements for the education of the Maharaj Kumar of Tajhat in the Rangpur district, the *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 18th March writes that although the Collector and the mother of the ward are both anxious to see him educated at Rangpur, the District Judge holds a contrary view and believes that it will be impossible for him to form his character in the midst of local surroundings. This seems very strange. It is preposterous to think that a responsible official like a District Collector, as well as the mother of the ward, would do anything that might bring about a deterioration of his character. The District Judge has written to Government recommending that the ward should be sent to the Raipur College for instruction. This recommendation by the Judge would, of course, be the right one under the circumstances, if one could believe that an aunt entertains a greater affection for a boy than his own mother, otherwise the action of the Judge must be regarded as the outcome of sheer quarrelsomeness.

MAHIMA,
March 18th, 1904.

41. The *Mahima* [Calcutta] of 18th March expresses its regret at the arrangements made by the Board of Revenue for the education of the minor son of the late Maharaja Gobinda Lal Ray of Tajhat in Rangpur. It is proposed to send the Kumar to the Raj Kumar College at Raipur, Central Provinces. Europeans, of course, regard these questions with different feelings. But a Bengali mother is overwhelmed with grief when her son is taken away from her side and sent to a distant place. It can therefore never be right to deprive this Hindu widow of the presence of her only son. Arrangements might be made to educate the Kumar at Calcutta.

HITAVADI,
March 18th, 1904.

42. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th March says that the famine-stricken people of India will not be thankful to the British Government on coming to know that that Government has spent sixty to seventy thousand rupees in harassing Mr. Balgangadhar Tilak. Can anything be a matter of greater regret than that the authorities who refuse to help the arts, industries,

and commerce of the country on the plea of want of funds should not feel the least hesitation in squandering the poor tax-payers' money in this manner? And had Government any justification to spend this large sum of money in a matter which was the sole concern of private parties?

It is said that Government wanted to make Tilak a handle to prove that the political agitators of this country are all dishonest men. But in going to prove the defects in the character of Indian political agitators, the authorities have exposed the weakness of their own character. To gain their end they did not hesitate to take the help of a characterless man like Nagpurkar and to employ many unsound arguments. But they have been foiled in their evil purpose and the truth has, at last, come out. The case has damaged Government's prestige in the eyes of the public.

Will not Lord Lamington enquire as to who is really to blame for bringing Government into this compromising position, for causing a waste of sixty thousand rupees from the public exchequer, and for bringing ruin upon Mr Tilak? And should not Mr. Tilak be recompensed for the loss he has sustained?

43. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 18th March has the following:—

The District Judge and the District Magistrate of Rangpur.

Among those who gave evidence before the Divisional Commissioner against the District Magistrate of Rangpur, there were Babus Joges Chandra Mazumdar and Joges Chandra Das Gupta, and many other persons who belong to the same caste with the District Judge and are connected with him.

The District Judge, Mr. K. N. Ray, received his education at Rangpur and is now in Government service here. He has many relations here with whom he is intimately connected. We therefore request Government to transfer the District Judge from this place soon.

In the Dakshina Mohun Estate the number of Vaidya officers is equal to that of other officers belonging to different castes.

The Vaidya officer of the Bamandanga Estate, Babu Ambikacharan Sen Gupta, is the tahsildar of Tambulpur. He is a dismissed Police Sub-Inspector and is a relation of the District Judge. One Babu Rajkumar Gupta, the husband of a niece of Ambika Babu, is tahsildar of Sundargunge. It is a good thing, no doubt, to support one's own kinsmen.

The following are the Vaidya officers of Civil Courts under the District Judge:—Babus Sasichandra Das Gupta, Jnanada Chandra Sen, Kumud Nath Sen, Purna Chandra Sen Gupta, and Priyanath Sen. The last gentleman has been promoted to the post of a probate muharrir. There are many others of this class.

Sasi Babu has been given the post of nazir in the place of Kali Krista Sehanabis, who has been granted leave. We want to know how Sasi Babu was promoted to this post from his 40-rupee appointment, although he was not the senior officer, and why the superior claims of others were overlooked. How is it that Kali Krista Babu does not rejoin his post? What would the District Judge say to these matters?

When any person supplied any article to Mr. A. C. Sen, the late District Judge of Rangpur, of which the real price was at the rate of one rupee per *seer* but for which the man charged at the rate of eight annas per *seer*, thereby trying to be a favourite or a confidant of the Judge, Mr. Sen used to say that he knew the market rate and would by no means accept the article at the reduced rate, and paid down the real price at once. When we call to mind Mr. Sen's high-mindedness, we feel perfectly satisfied.

Babu Jnanada Prasad Sen is the Assistant Manager of the Dakshina Mohun Estate. He was dismissed from the Road-Cess Office. How could he manage to get appointed in this estate? The rent collection of this estate is not heavy. Why then are there two Managers?

When the Divisional Commissioner came to enquire into the causes of the quarrel between the District Magistrate and the District Judge, an officer of Annada Babu, zamindar, was made to say that he (the officer) paid Rs. 400 as bribe to an officer of Mr. Mitter. But Annada Babu himself says that his man has not the power to spend more than one rupee without his permission, and that he never told anybody to pay the money. The matter is indeed very strange. If one must take revenge, ought one to make other people give false

RANGPUR
VARTAVAHA,
March 18th, 1904.

evidence or to commit perjury in utter disregard of all considerations of honesty and righteousness?

RANGPUR
VARTAVANA,
March 18th, 1904.

44. The same paper publishes the following letter from a correspondent in reply to a paragraph which appeared in its issue of the 11th March last relating to the District Judge of Rangpur):—

The District Judge and the District Magistrate of Rangpur.

To the Editor of the *Rangpur Vartavaha*.

SIR,

In your issue of the 28th *Falgun* you published the following. . . . I did not go to the District Judge's residence at any time from the 8th *Pous* to the 28th *Falgun* last, nor did he send for me and tell me those words. I never spoke such words before anybody. You will kindly correct your mistake in the next issue of your paper or publish this letter of mine.

(Sd.) JAGES CHANDRA MAZUMDAR.

The 14th March 1904.

The editor remarks as follows:—

The writer of the contradiction says he "did not go to the District Judge's residence at any time from the 8th *Pous* to the 28th *Falgun*." Did he then go there before the 8th *Pous*? "He never told me those words." Are we to understand from this that the District Judge said other words than those relating to the evidence against the District Magistrate?

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 20th, 1904.

45. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th March says that Mr. K. B. Thomas, Superintendent of Stamps and Stationery, abuses and insults his clerks, including even Mr. S. S. Cooper, the Assistant Superintendent.

Complaint against the Superintendent of Stamps and Stationery.

The office hours formerly were from 10-45 A.M. to 5 P.M. Since he took charge they have been 10-30 A.M. to 5-30 P.M. For the last few days they have been altered into 9 A.M. to 7 P.M. This is especially hard on such clerks as are railway daily passengers. Even some of the gazetted holidays are no longer observed.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
March 16th, 1904.

46. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 16th March complains that the European teacher of the Sealdah Telegraph School sells to each student, on his admission, a copy of a book of his own on the art of telegraphy, consisting of only 17 pages, and exacts for it a price of two rupees. It is hoped that the authorities will carefully enquire into the matter and put a stop to this oppressive practice, if it really exists.

A teacher of the Sealdah Telegraph School.

HITAVARTA,
March 20th, 1904.

47. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 20th March is sorry to hear that from this year only Europeans and Eurasians will be admitted into the Telegraph Training School, Lucknow. It is a regret that Indians are still thought unfit to learn the science of telegraphy. Some time hence they will probably be thought unfit to hold even the posts of *chaukidars*.

The Lucknow Telegraph Training School.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
March 16th, 1904.

48. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 16th March says that there is an impression in many minds that the chief object of Government in founding the Agricultural College at Pusa is to provide for a number of Europeans—an impression which has found confirmation in the Resolution issued by Government on the subject. Not only will a European Inspector be appointed for the college, but also a European Principal and European Professors. It is a matter of regret that Indians educated in England should not be appointed to teach Indian agriculture. A Mr. Coventry has been appointed Principal of the college. His only qualification mentioned by Government is that he was the manager of an indigo factory in which cultivation was carried on according to scientific methods and with the help of modern improved implements. If that be a criterion of merit, the claims of Babu Hem Chandra Mitra, the President of the Kasipur Horticultural Society, will stand higher. The writer would like to know the name of the college in which Mr. Coventry has received his agricultural education as well as the proficiency acquired by him there, and how agriculturists like Babu Nrityagopal Mukhopadhyaya and

The choice of Principal and Professors for the Pusa Agricultural College.

Babu Devendranath Mullik have been found inferior to him. So long as Government does not clearly explain these things, the above impression will not be removed from the public mind.

49. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 16th March says:—

MEDINI BANDHAV,
March 16th, 1904.

Proposed Agricultural College at Pusa. Advanced instruction in agriculture will be imparted at the college which Government proposes to establish at Pusa in Darbhanga. The poor agriculturists of this poor country will for the present neither understand nor be able to apply in practice such instruction. It is therefore to be hoped that the course of instruction will be so modified as to enable the illiterate peasants to improve on their system of agriculture. The teaching should advance with the advance of the agriculturists. Things should be done with an eye to time and surroundings.

50. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March writes:—

HITAVADI,
March 11th, 1904.

The Viceroy in East Bengal. How far the East Bengal tours of His Excellency the Viceroy in connection with the proposed partition of Bengal have been successful is best known to His Excellency himself. We have understood this much, that whatever he is determined to do he will do at all costs; that he will pay no attention to arguments and reasons, nor will he try to understand the wishes of the people. Those who are prepared to lick his feet like dogs are the persons who are his favourites; he pays no heed to what other persons may say. If learning, intelligence, and mental powers should come to this, then it would be much better to remain uncultured and ignorant. Such arrogance is not to be found in this country; it is rare even in England.

The Viceroy is very sorry that people did not *salaam* him at one place. Is it after his return from the Persian Gulf tour that His Excellency has grown so fond of *salaams*? But why, after all, should there be so much sensitiveness in this matter? Considering that even the servants of the attendants of His Excellency receive *salaams*, it is not easy to believe that His Excellency was not *salaamed*. A little enquiry revealed the secret. Police officers had told the *chaukidars* not to *salaam* the Viceroy, lest by the raising of their hands they should mar the beauty of the pageant. The *chaukidars* in their turn thought that if they were not to *salaam*, why should other people do so? They therefore told the people not to *salaam* the Viceroy. Granting that the people had no respect for the Viceroy, they would still have surely *salaamed* him through fear. But they were afraid lest they should offend His Excellency by *salaaming* him. This is the secret of the whole affair.

But why was Lord Curzon so particular about such a trifling matter as this? The answer to this question is not very difficult. His Excellency well knows that the people are dissatisfied at the partition proposal and that his legislative measures have made him unpopular. Everybody knows how a man who has known better days feels himself slighted at every trifling incident which he would never have noticed but for the altered circumstances into which he has fallen. Just as such an unfortunate man fancies that he is insulted at every step, so His Excellency also is being haunted by a similar delusion. He mistakes a rope for a snake. Is not this a grave mental perversion?

His Excellency said in his speech, "The administration which you profess to admire." We do not at all admire the Curzonian system of administration, but we admire the British system of administration. To praise or blame particular acts of His Excellency is quite different from praising or blaming the British system of administration. Wherever His Excellency deviated from the British policy he was taken to task.

Lord Curzon is strong, we are weak. He is our master, we are his subjects. He is the representative of our Emperor and, as such, deserves our respect. If, under the circumstances, he fails to secure the respect due to him from the people, it only shows that he lacks the power of pleasing them.

Let us say, O Lord! forbear. You are mighty, while we are mere worms. What addition will be there to your greatness if you crush us under your feet? You are ruthlessly destroying our education and the freedom of our

thought. You are beautifying the city of Calcutta by driving away the inhabitants, and in the garb of a *Badshah* you are throwing money all round, while those who supply the money are loudly praying for deliverance. Pray, then, forbear. Let the people alone, that they may console themselves by bewailing their destiny. Give yourself rest, and also let us breathe freely.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
March 16th, 1904.

51. The *Sri-Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 16th March writes as follows:—

The Viceroy on the partition question.

Instead of the clear sunshine of truth which the people of Dacca and Mymensingh hoped to rejoice in, they have had a fog of Lord Curzon's creating—a fog which has filled them with gloom and despair. Even the common people see that the Viceroy's speeches, though rich in rhetoric, are extremely poor in reasoning. They are not therefore silenced by His Excellency's speeches, but are, on the contrary, making strong, though respectful, protests against his statements. From a perusal of these protests we are of opinion that Government cannot pass them by in silent contempt. We also see that, as happens to even a really able man when he places himself in a false position by his endeavour to support a weak cause, every argument used by His Excellency has been demolished by the people.

The Viceroy had flattered himself that he had succeeded in reassuring the people. The people of Mymensingh, he supposed, were downright fools and the Babus had, therefore, easily persuaded them that they would have to work as coolies. Like a celestial messenger, His Excellency therefore brought them the hopeful message that they had nothing to fear—that they would not have to work as coolies.

We are extremely sorry to find that the ruler of so vast an empire knows so little of the character of the people whom he rules. His five years' residence in India has not enabled His Excellency to enter into the feelings of the Indian people—a fact which is very discreditable to him. If His Excellency were to devote a portion of the time he now devotes to speech-making to the study of the Indian character, he would have fewer impressions of a nature so ridiculous.

It is clearly shown in the Dacca memorial that, under a Parliamentary statute, Bengal should be ruled by a single Governor with the help of an Executive Council. In the short, clearly-expressed and well-reasoned memorial submitted by the Bengal Landholders' Association, the main argument of Government in favour of the proposed partition, namely, the increased difficulty of administration, has been most successfully combated.

The argument based upon the increase of population is very weak. Unlike the warlike inhabitants of Afghanistan, or the rebellious subjects of the European countries, or the turbulent people of Ireland, the people of India are peaceful and self-governed: they do not require a strong ruler to keep them in check. The number of Government officers is, besides, increasing every day, and if we had access to the papers of Government, we could have established this point by facts and figures.

If the administration of Bengal be, indeed, a burden which is too heavy for one man to bear, all difficulties may be obviated by the appointment of a Governor such as is to be found in Bombay and Madras and by the establishment of an Executive Council to help him. The Viceroy, however, says that administration with the help of an Executive Council is not satisfactory, but we do not understand him.

King Charles I of England used to consider himself infallible and as possessing a monopoly of political wisdom. Everybody knows with what contempt this pretension of his was treated by the English people. Man is liable to error, and even the Governors of the Indian provinces are no exception to this rule. If rulers had been as infallible as celestials, where would be the need of a Parliament or a Council in England?

We consider Lord Curzon to be a man of education and we were not therefore prepared to see him advocating a centralised administration. Nothing can be a greater pity than that a politician like him should advocate, in this twentieth century, the policy of entrusting to a single person the administration of a province. We look upon it as a shame that the Viceroy of India should

lay the axe at the root of that just and generous administrative principle of the English Government of which we are so proud.

Alarmed to see their rights and interests threatened, the people of Dacca and Mymensingh approached Government with their tale of sorrow and Lord Curzon reproached them as selfish. So did the thirsty lark crave of the cloud a drop of water. And what did the cloud do? Instead of giving the poor lark any water, it hurled upon its head a thunderbolt. Lord Curzon, though a human being and one of the foremost of the species, too, has, in this instance, imitated the example of the inanimate cloud. His speech has wounded the feelings of all Indians. But who is to judge which party is really selfish—the people of Dacca and Mymensingh, who seek to guard their rights, or Government who seeks to promote its own interests regardless of the inconveniences of the people? But our confidence in the sense of justice of the English people is not to be shaken. Whatever the Englishman may say or do from the impulse of the moment, his innate sense of justice is true to prevail in the end.

We cannot bring ourselves to believe that Government will split up the Bengali race, will separate brother from brother, and thereby create differences in the province with a view to weaken national life.

Will not Government listen to these reasonable and piteous prayers of the people? We hope our honoured Lieutenant-Governor will inform the Viceroy of the real meaning of these prayers and counsel him to desist from the proposed dreadful course.

52. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th March publishes the following from a correspondent:—

Lord Curzon's East Bengal speeches.

In the concluding portion of His Excellency's speech at Mymensingh, the Viceroy was pleased to remark that he was still prepared to receive reasonable objections. I therefore make bold to say a few words. Although His Excellency gave us the assurance, he did not mention any grounds on which that assurance might be based. Our apprehensions therefore remain the same as on the publication of Mr. Risle's letter.

The example of Sylhet and Cachar makes it clear that the people's apprehension that the Permanent Settlement and the Tenancy Law are likely to be interfered with by the proposed transfer, is not groundless. Last year I had a talk with a petty zamindar of Sylhet, who complained that zamindars and the raiyats have been subjected to endless misery and trouble by the transfer of Sylhet to Assam. It is not improbable that the poor, helpless raiyats will be made coolies for the tea-gardens like the people of Chota Nagpur, Tirhut, etc., nor is it at all unlikely that the tea-planters will be made Managers in Court of Wards' estates; for the Tirhut indigo-planters have frequently been appointed as Managers in important Court of Wards' estates, as in the Bettiah Estate. The journey to Shillong is not as easy to the poor people as it may be to the ruler of the Province. How many among the enlightened men of this twentieth century feel for the poor? If there were any such, then surely the mournful outcries of one crore and a half of Bengalis would have been listened to. Nothing can induce the people of East Bengal to agree to the severance of their connection with Calcutta, which is the centre of learning, civilization, trade, etc. If Dacca be made the seat of a separate government, who will pay the heavy cost of the establishment? Or even if the railway be extended to Shillong, how can the poor people afford to pay their passage-money? Calcutta satisfies all their needs, and hence they are not losers by coming to Calcutta. The celebrated Minute of Sir Henry Cotton ably discusses the whole subject. The prospect of the deterioration of society, religion, education, and language by the proposed change is not an imaginary one.

SANJIVANI,
March 17th, 1904.

53. The same paper publishes the proceedings of protest meetings criticising the East Bengal speeches of His Excellency the Viceroy, held at Dacca and at Mahera, Tangail, and Masua in the Mymensingh district.

SANJIVANI.

54. Under the heading "Renewed Agitation," the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th March says that the people of East Bengal have not yet despaired. They hope that

BANGAVASI,
March 19th, 1904.

The partition question.
the Viceroy, notwithstanding his late angry speeches in East Bengal, will yet

listen to their arguments and their wailings and take pity upon them. The people of West and East Bengal have recovered from the despair and sadness into which His Excellency's East Bengal speeches had plunged them and, with renewed energy, they are urging upon the notice of Government their arguments against the proposed partition.

The Bengal Landholders' Association has, for instance, recently submitted to Government a memorial of which even the *Englishman* newspaper has said:—"It is a letter which deserves, and will doubtless receive, the most careful consideration of the Government." The Association has shewn the Government how the port of Chittagong can be improved without transferring East Bengal to Assam. It has, also, clearly and conclusively proved the harm that will be done to East Bengal by its transfer. Everything of course now depends upon Lord Curzon. His Excellency will have to bestow upon the matter his most careful and anxious thought.

ARYAVARTA,
March 19th, 1904.

55. The *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 19th March says that a territorial redistribution of Bengal has become indispensably necessary, because one Lieutenant-Governor cannot

The partition question. keep control over the present territory of Bengal. The proposal which has been suggested by the Government to transfer the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh and the Chittagong Division to Assam is not, however, good, because the people of those places are closely connected in social matters and in their language with the people of Western Bengal. In the opinion of the writer, Orissa, Bengal, and Assam should be formed into one territory under one Lieutenant-Governor, while the two Divisions of Bihar and Chota Nagpur, with some districts from the United Provinces, such as Benares, Ghazipur, Muzaffarpur, and some others, should be formed into another province under a new Lieutenant-Governor, because the people of those places speak the same language, and in manners and customs differ little from one another.

RANGALAY,
March 20th, 1904.

56. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 20th March writes:—

Government already giving effect to the transfer proposal.

Do you know why there is so much mourning, so much heart-burning? News is pouring in from all quarters that the Chittagong Division, Dacca,

and Mymensingh have been incorporated with Assam. We have received letters from East Bengal to that effect. Here in Calcutta we are crying in the Town Hall meeting, while Government is sending basketfuls of papers to Chittagong. While we are engaged in writing out petitions sitting up far into the night, the Government Secretaries are arranging all the details of the transfer and sending them to the Divisional Commissioner. Oh! what scornful contempt this! What can we say, O Englishmen, when you are our rulers and, as such, deserve our obeisance?

Forbear, brother, don't weep any more. What is the good of this feminine crying? If your crying does not move the Sovereign, it will not move even the Most High.

DACCA GAZETTE,
March 21st, 1904.

57. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 21st March has the following in its English columns:—

The proposed partition of Bengal.

Public attention is now directed particularly to a new and interesting phase of the partition question.

As already noticed at some length in these columns, the memorial submitted by the people of Dacca has raised for the first time the important question as to whether the Governor-General of India has any statutory power to effect the changes proposed. We are glad to find that the *Calcutta Weekly Notes* has taken up the discussion of this new phase of the question with its wonted ability. The various Statutes that have been passed from time to time by the British Parliament in this connection have been passed under review by the *Calcutta Weekly Notes*, and it has been conclusively shown by our esteemed contemporary that they do not confer upon the Government of India the powers which they now arrogate to themselves. It remains to be seen what reply the Government is prepared to give to these arguments. It is certain that unless our rulers climb down from their present uncompromising standpoint, they will find themselves confronted in Parliament with this statutory difficulty which they may find it impossible to surmount. They will have to thank themselves if they sustain a humiliating defeat at the hands of the champions of the Indian popular cause in the British Parliament.

Lord Curzon in bringing his East Bengal touring campaign to a conclusion at Mymensingh solemnly assured us that "if our proposals are still to be resisted, *it must be on some other grounds than those* which I have shown to be often unjust. We shall, of course, attentively consider any representations that are made to us, but do not let the public put into our mouths what we have never said or into our minds what has never entered them. Let it be remembered by all parties that the true and only criterion is better government for you in your own areas, for Bengal as a province, and therefore, as a consequence, for British India as a whole." The italics are ours. Acting upon His Excellency's gracious advice, Dacca has tried to oppose the Government proposal on new grounds which, we have no doubt, will receive the consideration they eminently deserve.

In one of our latest issues we said :—

"Give Caesar his due. These statutory difficulties stand as so many stumbling-blocks in the way of the sweeping and summary operations of Lord Curzon, separating the different limbs from the main body. We have not yet seen this phase of the question discussed anywhere, and the honour of driving this last nail into the coffin belongs to Dacca and its leaders who are conducting the agitation anent territorial dismemberment. Lord Curzon knows it better than anybody else that discretion is the better part of valour, and we have no doubt His Lordship will give yet another proof of his good sense in this connection as he did with reference to the agitation over the selection of the Victoria Memorial site."

We utter no vain boast when we say that unless the Government has the good sense to retrace its steps, the popular struggle and agitation will not remain confined to India, but will find earnest and powerful representatives in the British Press, Platform, and Parliament. The whole country has been thoroughly roused, and the people are filled with a grim resolution to fight out this constitutional battle to the bitter end. Our rulers apparently have no idea of the tenacity of purpose and indomitable will and perseverance which characterise the people of East Bengal; for if they had, no Viceregal tour would have been undertaken for the purpose of browbeating the people into submission. The bitterness and persistency of the coming struggle will reveal to them fully the existence of qualities hitherto unsuspected by the authorities.

We would request our leaders to arm themselves with authoritative legal opinions on this point. We think we ought to try to secure the opinions of the Advocate-General and the other leading legal luminaries of the High Court on this aspect of the question. There is no time to be lost. We have the bad habit of doing everything at the last moment, and this will account, in a large measure, for the thousand and one *contretemps* that have attended all our manoeuvres in this connection, most of which, we are confident, would have been avoided had we bestirred ourselves in good and proper time. We do not wonder that the opinions of the local Press have no place in the deliberations of some of the gentlemen who have taken upon themselves the entire responsibility of conducting this agitation, for, as the saying goes, familiarity breeds contempt. But the importance of the subject and the interests at stake leave us no choice in the matter, so we have to say our say, though, it may be, to unwilling ears.

III.—LEGISLATION.

58. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March observes:—

The Official Secrets Act.

So, after all, the Official Secrets Bill has been passed. All opposition, reasons, and arguments have gone for nothing. The assurance given by the Viceroy proved unavailing. The echoes of that assurance are still ringing in our ears, but it failed to give consolation to the people. Writers of newspapers do not know when they may be sent to jail by incurring the displeasure of the authorities. Lord Curzon paid no attention whatever to the objections that were raised. The protests in the English and vernacular newspapers were all ignored, and the Bill was straightway passed into law.

In the present Act much still remains which may enable the authorities to crush a newspaper. In practice, however, it is we who shall be ruined, but the *Pioneer* and the *Englishman* will have nothing to fear. We feel, and feel bitterly, that we have been deprived of our liberty. It is true that the law will not be put in motion on every occasion, but an edged sword will

HITAVADI,
March 11th, 1904.

always be hanging over our heads. This then is the freedom of the Press in this country, and nothing more can be expected. The new law has fettered the liberty of the Press. Alas! what a monument of his glory does Lord Curzon leave behind!

Every time that an amendment was proposed in the Legislative Council, it was lost. Sir A. Arundel was thus completely victorious. What a Legislative Council this! With what respect are the opinions of the "Hon'ble" representatives of the people received! What a regard for the opinions of the public! The truth is that whatever is done is done at the instance of the head of the Government, the Hon'bles are only innocent participators, mere ornamental figureheads.

Sir Edward Law took much pains to show that certain financial matters in regard to which there has been no opposition and which have been mentioned in the Act should be regarded as secret. What was really wanted was an exact definition of the word "civil." The expression "other matters" should not have been allowed to remain in the Act, and Sir Edward had nothing to say on this point. His Honour Sir Andrew Fraser's remark was very amusing. His Honour complained that it was not safe to write even demi-official letters. We must hang down our heads in very shame at these words of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. In a country where there occur in connection with official matters incidents so disgraceful as to make the authorities feel ashamed at their disclosure, it is only natural that such a law should be passed by the Government. Those who commit disgraceful deeds are all innocent; it is only those that happen to know or give publicity to those deeds that must be punished. What fine logic this! We never expected that the *chhoti lat* would ever utter such *chhota* (mean) words.

Relations of the Government of India with foreign Governments and with the native princess of India and "other important matters" are all to be understood as civil matters. What a pity that even such a monstrous interpretation of this strange enactment does not open our eyes. What is surprising is that this law is not for the Fiji Islands but for British India, and what a pity that it should be enforced at the commencement of this twentieth century.

Will anyone explain to us what the words "other important matters" signify? What matters are important and what are not may be decided differently under different circumstances. Consequently it remains uncertain what those matters are by the publication of which the public interest will suffer.

Lord Curzon has reassured the Indians by adding in the concluding part of his speech that if any real injustice were perpetrated under this Bill, from that moment the Act would be doomed. But the Indians must feel that these are words merely to dupe children. If the tyrant were doomed the moment he committed an outrage, then many a man, whose strength lies in mere words of mouth, would surely have led the way by this time. The fact is that the consequences of one's *karma* do not always follow immediately.

HITAVADI,
March 18th, 1904.

59. Government has placed newspaper conductors, says the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th March, in a very critical situation by the enactment of the Official Secrets Act.

To take a case. It is settled at present that Lord Curzon will go home in May next. If, in this connection, one said, having regard to the complications with Tibet, the Russo-Japanese war, and the present condition of the English Ministry, that if a war broke out with Tibet or the Russo-Japanese war entered upon a phase which threatened India's interests, Lord Curzon would have to give up the idea of going Home; or, if anybody said that, in case Lord Curzon went to England, he would try for some high post there, and if he succeeded in getting it, he would not return to India, would such a man be liable for prosecution under the new Act? Neither of this is certainly an official secret, but only an inference from the existing political situation. And it is hoped that a man will not be taken to task for publishing such speculations.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 22nd, 1904.

60. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd March has a cartoon on the Official Secrets Act headed "Official Secrets—Beware!"

A cartoon on the Official Secrets Act.

The cartoon represents an enormous spider, with a human head, coming out of a web which spreads over, and prevents access through, a door. Five Bengalis are shown as trying to avoid this spider and pass through the door. The letter press begins with a quotation which means

that the wise will know in a few days what the fool takes forty years to know. and then continues: "Take care, brethren, do not get caught in the web, If you sway your body ever so little you will get into trouble. We must speak only in hints, use only agreeable language, and keep our deepest feelings secret."

61. Referring to the notices of amendments given by Mr. Gokhale, Dr. Asutosh, Rai Sriram Bahadur, and Nawab Sayyud Muhammad in connection with the Universities

The Universities Bill.

Bill to be discussed at to-morrow's meeting of the Viceroy's Legislative Council, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th March remarks that it is idle to expect any good result from the proposals of amendments in a Council of which most of the members are officials. Even before the passing of the Bill, Lord Cruzon described the character and scope of the future University in his Convocation speech and in the Resolution of the Government of India on education. There is therefore no chance of any proposal of amendment being accepted.

Lord Curzon is determined to pass the Bill. From the educational policy of Government, as set forth in last Saturday's *Gazette of India*, it is clear that His Excellency has struck a death-blow at the root of high education. The Universities Act will lay down rules for carrying out the principles of that policy. The people will no longer have any freedom in educational matters, and independent schools and colleges will cease to exist. By doing away with the freedom of education Lord Curzon will leave the people of this country in the chains of slavery.

62. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 20th March writes that the debate on the Universities Bill in the Supreme Legislative

The Universities Bill.

Council continued during Friday and Saturday last. The result was as might be expected. Whenever Government nodded, seventeen Hon'ble Members followed suit. So votes carried the day. Whenever Government is determined to carry its point all opposition goes for nothing. Where is then the good of useless talk? But we believe that if the Universities Bill is passed, the whole Indian Empire will not certainly be overturned. We are going on as usual since the passing of the Consent Act; we have been living in Calcutta since the Municipal Act was passed; and we have been writing whatever we please in our papers after the Official Secrets Bill was passed. And we shall continue to educate our children just as we are doing now after the Universities Bill is passed, and our boys will pass the B. A. and the M. A. examination as they have hitherto done.

63. The same paper writes that the object of the Ancient

The Ancient Monuments Preservation Act.

Monuments Preservation Act is indeed good. But the speech of His Excellency the Viceroy after the passing of the Bill was not one which one would like to hear from him. His Excellency gives an account of how ancient buildings, temples, etc., in different parts of India have been, or are being, repaired. Such an account would sound well in the mouth of some other officer of Government.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

64. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 16th March says that a terrible

Famine in Cutwa subdivision.

famine prevails in some parts of the Cutwa subdivision. Many inhabitants of Ketugram thana have left their homes in search of employment elsewhere. There is no relief for the unfortunate people of this country but in death.

A correspondent of the same paper thanks Babu Syamlal Gupta, the local Deputy Collector, for having drawn the attention of Government to the terrible famine which prevails in the greater part of Ketugram thana, in some part of Mangalkot thana, and in a very small part of Cutwa thana. But for Syamlal Babu, the Government could never have come to know of this and made arrangements for relief. A Sub-Deputy Collector has been specially brought in to cope with the extra work.

SANJIVANI,
March 17th, 1904.

RANGALAY,
March 20th, 1904.

RANGALAY.

PALLIVASI,
March 16th, 1904.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
March 15th, 1904.

65. The *Tripura Hitaiishi* [Comilla] of the 15th March writes as follows in a paragraph headed "A matter of shame and regret":—

Charges against a native District Magistrate.

We shall not publish the name. But we are informed that some serious charges have been made to the authorities against a native District Magistrate. The Magistrate is a man of education but of very low morals. He pollutes his house with drinking-bouts and women of ill-fame. Such blemishes in the character of high officials are specially shameful. Man, your luck must have been very great for you to have become a Magistrate, the uncontrolled lord of a district; to have escaped the disabilities of a "nigger." Still, cannot you rid yourself of this vice?

URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPIKA,
March 12th, 1904.

66. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 12th March states that there were showers of rain in certain parts of the Cuttack district.

Rainfall in the Cuttack district.

UTKALDIPIKA.

67. The same paper states that some houses in Musjidgali and Bakhrabad in the Cuttack town were burnt down by fire in the last week, thereby causing damage to certain residents of the town.

Outbreak of fire at Cuttack.

ALL THE NATIVE
PAPERS OF ORISSA.

68. All the native papers of Orissa notice the proposed appointment of Mr. K. G. Gupta, the Commissioner of Orissa, to the Board of Revenue with great satisfaction. They observe that Mr. Gupta has distinguished himself by meritorious services, and that he will be the first Indian to sit in the Board, which, in itself, will be a matter of very great pleasure.

Proposed appointment of Mr. K. G. Gupta as a Member of the Board of Revenue.

UTKALDIPIKA.
March 12th, 1904.

69. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 12th March points out that the presence of a few coolie sirdars in the Jajpur subdivision of the Cuttack district and their reported acts have so demoralised the people of Jajpur, that women and children do not go out of their houses unless supported by a guard.

Oppression by some coolie sirdars at Jajpur.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
March 9th, 1904.

70. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 9th March and the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 10th March state that cholera is still raging in the Balasore town.

Cholera at Balasore.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

71. The same papers state that there was rain in the Balasore district in the last week.

Rainfall in the Balasore district.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

72. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 9th March regrets to learn that the officer in charge of the Nilgiri Raj is going to import foreigners to fill four appointments, carrying salaries of Rs. 15 per month each, though competent candidates for the posts in question are available in Orissa. The writer does not approve of the policy of the Nilgiri State, which encourages foreign at the sacrifice of indigenous merit.

Appointment of foreigners in the Nilgiri Raj Estate.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

73. The same paper states that there were about 50,000 pilgrims in Puri on last Monday. The health of the Puri town was good. The pilgrims experienced very little inconvenience, as the Manager of the Puri temple attended to his duties carefully. The rate of house-rent, however, increased suddenly.

Arrangements for the pilgrims at Puri.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

74. Referring to the proceedings of the Indian Legislative Council in connection with the Official Secrets Bill, the same paper observes that it was useless on the part of the non-official members to oppose the Bill, as it was a foregone conclusion that they must be defeated in the end.

The Official Secrets Bill.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

75. The same paper states that the discharge of Mr. Tilak by the Bombay High Court has given great relief to the general public, who are highly pleased with the judgment of that Court. Its contemporary, the *Utkaldipika*, adds that Government should

Acquittal of Mr. Tilak.

pay compensation to Mr. Tilak and take notice of the conduct of those through whose instrumentality, Mr. Tilak was thus prosecuted.

76. The same paper exhorts the public to contribute their mite towards the help of the wounded and sick Japanese and the relatives of those of them that have been killed.

URIYA AND
NAVABAND.
March 9th, 1904.

77. Referring to a notification in the *Calcutta Gazette* that Public Works cess will be assessed at the rate of six pies per rupee in the year 1904-1905, the same paper observes that though the finances of Bengal are in a satisfactory state, Government has been realising the cess at the maximum rate allowed by the law. The law did not contemplate that the maximum rate would be realised always.

URIYA AND
NAVABAND.

78. The same paper is satisfied to find that Government has felt the necessity of appointing competent men on decent salaries to the work of records-of-rights. Had this been done earlier, the Orissa settlement records would not have been so faulty as they are.

URIYA AND
NAVABAND.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 26th March, 1904.

